

SPECIAL EDITION
SETTING
THE STANDARD**HELPING STATES**

February 2010

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Inside this special edition of *Setting the Standard*, find out how BECP helps states with:

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Jean Boulin
U.S. Department of Energy



Dear State Energy Officials,

A historic opportunity for your state has arrived. With awareness of building energy efficiency increasing at all levels of government and industry, a moment of action is here—one that will affect your state's energy costs far into the future.

Those of you who are decision makers at the state level have a clear-cut occasion to effect real, positive change for your communities. By putting systems in place to support enhanced building energy codes, you can play a central role in the busy months ahead. Your collaboration with other energy officials and private-sector leaders in the construction and design industry will bring about a generation of buildings that really perform—for the sake of a cleaner environment, increased comfort, and energy cost savings. DOE's Building Energy Codes Program is here to help you during this time.

In this special edition of *Setting the Standard* and at www.energycodes.gov, you'll find the specific ways we can be of assistance. Remember, in our line of work less—**Less Energy. Less Cost. Less Carbon.**—truly is more.

It is a pleasure saving energy with you,

Jean Boulin
Building Energy Codes
U.S. Department of Energy

Code Collaboration: More vital now than ever

Increasing the energy efficiency of our nation's buildings is the goal of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its Building Energy Codes Program (BECP). Current economic and environmental challenges make energy savings more relevant than ever, and U.S. states and jurisdictions are responding. During this process BECP is reaching out to help these governing bodies attain their building energy codes goals. We're here to keep you *in the now* and *in the know*.

In the now – The Latest Codes

Today, efficiency measures seem to be on everyone's radar—even that of pop-culture media. A recent *Rolling Stone* article listed cutting energy consumption in buildings first in a list of five ways Secretary of Energy Steven Chu “...plans to get us off fossil fuels and build a cleaner, greener world.” For BECP, staying “in the now” means supporting adoption and compliance of up-to-date building energy codes: the ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA¹ Standard 90.1-2007 for commercial buildings and the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings.

In the know – BECP's guidelines and tools

Studies indicate a significant need for improvement in building energy code compliance rates. BECP is refining a detailed, adaptable approach that states can use to measure and report compliance, and to implement programs to increase compliance over time.

**BUILDING CONNECTIONS:**

BECP is prioritizing open collaboration with—and between—state energy officials and other key stakeholders across the nation.

¹ The American National Standards Institute/American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers/Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

Setting the Target for Your State: *Enhanced Building Energy Codes*

Code Adoption and Implementation

DOE fosters the wide-scale adoption of building energy codes in states through focused technical assistance and with help from BECP's advocacy arm, the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP).

Current emphasis is on helping states adopt the 2009 IECC and ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007—though IECC 2012 and Standard 90.1-2010 are already on the horizon. While BCAP advocates for states and jurisdictions to maximize energy savings by adopting these codes, these governing bodies must be able to envision their adoption and implementation on a practical level—this is where BECP's other resources and expertise enter the equation.

First, BECP technical staff have added state-specific versions to DOE's suite of no-cost residential and commercial software, REScheck™ and COMcheck™. In addition to software tools, BECP offers a wealth of information and training resources at www.energycodes.gov, in media and interactive formats that connect with different learning styles. Just a few examples include the “Ask an Energy Codes Expert” program, webcasts, YouTube videos, webinars, and self-paced training courses.

Because one size doesn't fit all in the codes world, DOE also offers specialized, custom technical assistance to states by request. For more details, visit: www.energycodes.gov/implement/state_tech_assist.stm.

The upshot: proactive preparation

For every member of the codes community, from state-level officials to building designers, contractors, and homeowners, BECP affords the encouragement, resources, and support to adopt better building energy codes.

This vision for successful code adoption and implementation *sets a clear target*, allowing a state or jurisdiction to confidently draw back its bow. Continue to page 3 for a look at BECP's approach toward building energy code compliance—and find the right trajectory for success.



BECP offers resources that lay the foundation for states to confidently adopt and implement the 2009 IECC and ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007 building energy codes.

Energy Codes 2010: *Constructive Dialogue*

Because in-person training and support is the best way to immerse yourself in the building energy codes world, DOE hosts an annual states-focused training event. **Energy Codes 2009** welcomed 226 participants from 38 states and territories and several foreign countries. The time has arrived to prepare for **Energy Codes 2010**, and BECP needs your help to make this training as valuable as possible for members of the energy codes community. Please offer your input on location, topics, suggested speakers, and anything else that will make this summer's event a success. Need inspiration? Check out videos from **Energy Codes 2009** on the BECP YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/EnergyCodes.

Email your Energy Codes 2010 ideas to techsupport@becp.pnl.gov. To receive more information as Energy Codes 2010 approaches, subscribe to *Setting the Standard* at www.energycodes.gov/news.



Hitting the Bullseye: *Energy Code Compliance*

Code Compliance — Helping states efficiently show efficiency

BECP is providing a mechanism for states and jurisdictions to accurately and consistently demonstrate greater compliance with the building energy codes they have adopted. Through feedback garnered via forums held with states, BECP has prepared guidelines, training, and tools to help states hit the bullseye—higher compliance rates.

Guidelines will show how to:

- ▶ Measure compliance
- ▶ Develop a valid building sample
- ▶ Evaluate building sample data
- ▶ Fund and conduct onsite evaluations
- ▶ Use checklists and aggregate audit results
- ▶ Conduct annual compliance measurements
- ▶ Comply with alternative codes and home-rule state codes
- ▶ Obtain jurisdictional buy-in.

Training will educate:

- ▶ State officials
- ▶ Jurisdictional staff
- ▶ Architects and designers
- ▶ Builders/contractors
- ▶ Evaluators.

Tools will include an online state code compliance portal that will give states access to BECP materials, allow states to communicate activities and lessons learned, and help states implement programs to enhance compliance rates.

Current approach— BECP is refining its assistance to states

The helpful guidelines listed here are found within BECP's *State Compliance Evaluation* document. Treated as an approach-in-progress, this living document received valuable feedback from key building energy codes stakeholders. Their input has been consolidated into several topics that require assistance and clarification. BECP is addressing each of these through topic briefs, which are being posted as they are developed at www.energycodes.gov.

These topic briefs are also being compiled into one streamlined document titled *Measuring State Energy Code Compliance*—a single resource that collects BECP's findings and recommendations to states.



ZEROING IN ON COMPLIANCE BECP's involvement in today's codes compliance landscape includes development of a detailed approach for states, which will be further refined using upcoming pilot studies.



BECP is providing a mechanism for states and jurisdictions to accurately and consistently demonstrate greater compliance with the building energy codes they have adopted.

Pilot Studies: Testing the Tests

In the coming months, BECP will work with Regional Alliance groups to conduct pilot studies in five states.



The pilot studies will test the approach, methodology, and tools BECP has developed to assist states in demonstrating improved building energy code compliance. An excellent opportunity for partnership between BECP and state energy officials, these studies will provide key insights that will help BECP refine its final methodology and tools. The result will be a more practical and effective set of materials for states to use as they reach for higher compliance rates.

These pilot studies will seek to refine code evaluations for a variety of building classes:

- Small commercial
- Large commercial
- Residential
- Multifamily
- Renovation.

Helping Your Aim: Finding the Energy Codes Answers for Your State

Code Assistance: Resources from BECP

Building Energy Codes Assistance for States	Status of State Energy Codes	Check on the current code status of any U.S. state or territory using BECP's interactive map tool. Also find links to state specific portions of BECP's recent nationwide analysis reports, state-level energy official contact information, and many other details.	www.energycodes.gov/implement/state_tech_assist.stm
	Technical Assistance to States	BECP provides specialized technical assistance to the states in the form of economic analysis, code comparisons, webcast training, and compliance material development requested by states to help them adopt, upgrade, implement, and enforce their building energy codes.	www.energycodes.gov/implement/state_codes/index.stm
	State Compliance Assistance	BECP has developed an approach states can use for measuring compliance with building energy codes.	www.energycodes.gov/news/arra/compliance_evaluation.stm
No-cost Compliance Tools	Residential Code Compliance Software	REScheck™ and REScheck-Web™ 	www.energycodes.gov/compliance_tools.stm
	Commercial Code Compliance Software	COMcheck™ and COMcheck-Web™ 	
Training	Codes University	To help stakeholders broaden and deepen their knowledge of building energy codes, BECP is collecting its diverse training resources in an extensive Codes University that features webcasts, training videos, self-paced online courses, presentations, and other BECP materials and tools.	www.energycodes.gov/training
Resource Center	Building Energy Codes Knowledge Base	This knowledge base provides a variety of different media types, including articles, graphics, online tools, presentations, and videos that anyone can use to create their own training and presentations.	www.resourcecenter.pnl.gov/cocoon/morf/ResourceCenter
Advocacy	The Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP)	BCAP is an initiative of the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, and the Natural Resource Defense Council that provides states with code advocacy assistance on behalf of DOE.	www.bcap-energy.org



Avoid information overload

The BECP communications team is always scouring the Web for the latest, most relevant efficiency and building energy codes-related news content. Subscribe to BECP's RSS news feed to see what they found this week:

✓ Check out what's new at
www.energycodes.gov/news/rss/index.stm

Reach out for assistance: take advantage of the resources listed above as our nation, states, jurisdictions, and communities strive for greater energy savings. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

ENERGY

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Setting the Standard is published by the Building Energy Codes Program of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Its purpose is to encourage information exchange among building industry professionals and organizations, state and local code officials, and researchers to facilitate timely development and early adoption of the building energy conservation standards. The Building Energy Codes Program would like to continue sending you information about energy codes and compliance tools, but if you would like your name removed from our contacts list, go to www.energycodes.gov/unsubscribe.stm. Send comments and contributions to Ross Carper at Pacific.Northwest.National.Laboratory.technicalsupport@beep.pnl.gov.

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Building Energy Codes Website:

www.energycodes.gov

Tech Support:

www.energycodes.gov/support

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.